

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 1, 2020
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met, June 1, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Connie Bennett, John Brassart, Jerri Burton, Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Sean Gilmore, Jan Houser, Nate Long, Sammye Opela and Tom Pryor. Council members absent: None.

Council person Tom Pryor led the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Grant Spieth noted council members are all present at tonight's council meeting due to the updates in the COVID-19 reopening guidelines. City Staff and visitors will enter the room and address the Governing Body from the podium to maintain social distancing guidelines.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of May 18, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes, Appropriation Ordinance 20-519 and May 2020 Personnel Report as presented. Long seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

VISITOR – JAMES KIDD / DISC GOLF

James Kidd addressed the council regarding the new Disc Golf Course at the City Park. Kidd noted some tees have players throwing across or through other features in the park causing safety issues and slowing/interrupting play. Kidd presented the idea of an 18-hole plan stating a good course will attract players and visitors from other communities. Kidd and others from the group would like to work with the council and public works staff on course improvements.

City Administrator Report-

- COVID-19 update. Governor Kelly issued a new state Disaster Declaration making the state Ad Astra plan re-opening Kansas a guidance document. The state encourages the plan be followed however it is not mandated by an Executive Order. County health officers can impose local restrictions in their respective county. Cherokee County has no current plans to implement local county-wide restrictions.
- CDBG-CV public hearing was held Friday May 22nd. There were a few questions regarding how businesses will apply for funds. This program would assist local businesses and food banks. County Commissioners approved and signed necessary documents. Project awards will be announced early June.
- The City Clerk's office mailed letters to City utility customers with delinquent accounts May 29th and will work with clients to bring the accounts current.
- New municipal code is expected in June.
- Work continues on the new City website with completion target the end of July.
- Ian's Place project in the final phase. Dedication planned for late June.
- Utility Service Company is working on the water standpipe. The standpipe had to be drained on Thursday to inspect and work on the interior of the structure.
- Follow up on the sphere water tank in the City Park. Lights were inspected and are working. Sphere and standpipe were both painted in 2016 by Utility Service Co. with a total project cost of \$66,400.

- Community Building reservations will begin June 1 with a 50-person cap. Social distancing will be recommended and there are new cleaning/sanitation requirements.
- Employee appreciation luncheons this week, great informal opportunity for council and staff to meet and have candid conversations on how we can move our City forward.
- June sales tax distribution (March 2020 sales) is in and the City is on track with 2019 sales tax collections and 2020 budget sales tax revenue.
- Blue Cross Blue Shield pathways grant update. The City is partnering with PACCC and the Columbus Project on a \$200,000 grant for the community to address health, healthy foods / environment and physical activity. We have made it to the 'site visit' level of the process.
- We are waiting on City's assessed valuation numbers from the County Clerk's office for the 2021 budget. The County Clerk's office is training on new software and anticipates the numbers out by the end of June. The council may need to call a special meeting to review the budget if this information is not received by June 15.
- Barricades have been removed from the old Pool House after consulting with the public works department and the property/pool/parks committee. I am working on a grant opportunity for the structure along with the public works foreman and hope to have more information at the next council meeting.
- City staff will be spraying for mosquitos twice a week on a bi-weekly schedule beginning June 10 and running through September.
- Economic Development committee is supporting a Columbus Housing committee headed by Liz Simpson in conjunction with Janet Miller. The housing committee will be conducting a housing needs assessment to begin the process of new housing and/or a RHID in Columbus.
- Hiring seasonal laborers for mowing. It was decided not to hire as many seasonal laborers as usual to cut costs. Some of the projects completed by seasonal staff will be completed by full time staff as time allows.

City Treasurer Report

- Report in the council packet. Good news is there is no bad news. As reported earlier revenue is steady, looking forward to property tax collection numbers. Interests rates are still low, will keep you up to date on investments.

City Superintendent Report –

- Report in council packet.

City Clerk Report –

- PRIDE meeting noon, Tuesday June 9, will be another ZOOM meeting.
- Chamber meeting noon, Wednesday June 10 at the Community Building.
- Started taking Community Building reservations today for events of 50 or fewer attendees, updated cleaning requirements and social distancing recommendations.
- Fire Up for Fireworks final cookout Thursday June 11 from 11-1. This will be another drive thru event behind the Community Building. Last report the firework fund needs another \$3,500.

Police Chief Report –

- Steady stream of VIN inspections, 22 since last council meeting, good indicator people are buying vehicles.
- Officer Holt will have property report at the next council meeting.
- Department range training later this week. This is the second year in a row our department has completed annual training requirements before the deadline. COVID has allowed for much of the training to be completed in house by computer classes and webinars at a cost savings to the City.

-PPE for court received, we are ready to resume municipal court with new guidelines June 8 in the council chambers.

Fire Chief Report –

-98 runs for the year, 10 since the last meeting.

-New radar software installed in the training room; hope we will not need it anytime soon.

-Held first department training last week since the COVID restrictions.

City Attorney Report –

-None.

City Administrator asked for council feedback on the visibility of West Country Road signage from Hwy 69. She noted it has been 6 months since KDOT placed reflective tape on the signs to help with nighttime recognition. No complaints were noted, it was agreed not to take further action.

WAIVE SEWER TAP FEES – 423 EAST MILL STREET

Burton moved to waive sewer tap fees for 423 East Mill. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor.

Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

The Columbus Recreation Commission would like to start a mini version of the classic Snowball Basketball tournament. Interested parties are encouraged to contact City Administrator Rivas at City Hall or Liz Simpson at Crossland Construction for more information.

Mayor Spieth mentioned he is still working on landbank board appointments and hopes to have more information next council meeting.

Old Business –

1. **Consider approval of Public Works silent auction.** City Administrator Rivas noted this was presented to council previously and was put on hold due to COVID-19. We would like to proceed with the project now that restrictions are lifted. Burton moved to proceed with Public Works silent auction as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.
2. **Discussion: Opening of City Pool.** Rivas stated the information in your packet is our first shot at a plan to open the pool taking into consideration COVID-19, budget and logistical factors including social distancing and sanitation recommendations. Would like council input and request action tonight so that if we are going to open the pool, we can get the process started. Houser moved to move forward with opening the City pool with the plan as presented. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

City staff will work with Dr. Smith to see if the pool might be available for school PE classes until Labor Day.

New Business –

1. **Consider approval of Safe Routes to School Phase One agreement.** Houser moved to approve the Safe Routes to School Phase One agreement as presented. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

Meetings:

Property/Pool/Parks

Tuesday June 2, 2020 @ 2:00 p.m.

Personnel

Tuesday June 9, 2020 @ 2:00 p.m.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk